

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential structural relationships of elements is respectfully traversed. None of the rejected claims omit any essential relationships or elements.

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite is respectfully traversed. All of the rejected claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regards as the invention.

However to expedite prosecution many of the claims have been amended. Claim 38 has been amended and, as amended, even more clearly sets forth the elements defining the flowpaths including the pumps and the fluid circuits. The valve arrangement is clearly specified.

Claim 2 has been amended to specify a tangential flow filter.

Claim 3 has been amended to specify that the portion of the filter medium of the first filtration means which is included in the filter medium of the second filtration means is common to both flowpaths.

Claim 5 clearly defines the structure of each filter as including a filter flowpath and a filter medium adjacent to the filter flowpath. Further, claim 5 specifies that the first continuous flowpath comprises a plurality of filters and the second continuous flowpath comprises a subset of the plurality of filters.

Claim 6 has been amended to further limit claim 5.

Claim 7 has been amended to specify that the manifold is connected to the fluid flowpath of each filter and may be either an inlet or an outlet manifold.

Claim 39 has been amended and, as amended, even more clearly sets forth the elements defining the flowpaths including the pumps, the manifolds, and the fluid circuits. Further, the first and second manifolds are connected to the unfiltered fluid inlets and outlets respectively.

Claim 40 has been amended to clearly specify a first manifold coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet of each filter, a second manifold coupled to the unfiltered fluid outlet of each filter, and a pump arrangement.

Claim 41 has been amended to recite a second pump means, and first and second manifolds coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlets and outlets, respectively. The valve arrangement is coupled to the first continuous flowpath or the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 42 has been amended to specify that the pump arrangement and the valve arrangement is coupled to the first and second continuous flowpaths. The portion of the first continuous flowpath that is not in the second continuous flowpath is identified as a first portion of the first continuous flowpath.

Respectfully submitted,



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